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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Organization of the Fronti-Demokratik R. P. SH./
Issue of the Traska I Fronti-Demokratik (Membership
Card)/Adherent Rights and Duties/Electoral Procedures



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Organization of the Fronti-Demokratik R.P.SH.

2. "The Fronti-Demokratik R.P.SH. depends on the Kuvendi Popullor (People's Assembly).
The headquarters of both are located on Blv. Shqipria e Re in Tirana.

3. "Throughout the 23 administrative regions of Albania there exists in each regional
capital (including Tirana) a Kshilli Fronti-Demokratik Qytetit-Tirane (Kukes,
Kruje etc..) or Council of the Democratic Front of the City of Tirana (Kukes, Kruje
etc...). For abbreviation [REDACTED] refer to this unit as KFDQ. The KFDQ of Tirana,
which supervises the entire Tirana region, is situated on Rr. Elbasanit.

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4. "The KFDQ of Tirana has under its supervision three councils, one for each rajone
of the city. These are called Kshilli Fronti-Demokratik Rajonit - 1, 2 or 3.
For abbreviation [REDACTED] refer to these units as KFDR - 1, 2 or 3.

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5. "The KFDR are situated in the rajone (city sectors) of the Kom. Ekq. D. P. Rajon (headquarters of the Executive Committee of the People's Board for each rajon), i.e. on Rr. Qemal (KFDR - 1), on Rr. Barrikadavet (KFDR - 2), and on Rr. Radioj Tirane (KFDR - 3). Note: only the city of Tirana has KFDR, since it is the only city in Albania that is divided into rajone (city sector) administrative units.
6. "Thus, KFDR - Tirane has three KFDR. Each KFDR has under its supervision certain Kshilli Frontit Demokratik Lagjevet - Democratic Front City sub-sectors - KFDR. The number of KFDR's depends on the number of K.L.'s or city sub-sectors in the city.
7. "The KFDR in the capital city of each region does not have KFDR's subordinate to it, only KFDR's.
8. "Under each regional KFDR is a Kshilli Frontit Demokratik Lokalitetit (KFD-LOK) for each locality and one Kshilli Frontit Demokratik Katundit (KFDR) for each village.
9. "Thus, for each region:

In each regional capital there is a KFDR for the regional area.
In each locality there is a KFD-LOK
In each village there is a KFDR
In the regional capital there are KFDR's

For the region and city of Tirane; there is the KFDR - Tirana, which supervises:

The KFD-LOK's of the Tirana region
The KFDR's of the Tirana region
The three KFDR's of the city of Tirana and their respective KFDR's.

10. "The KFD-LOK, KFDR, KFDR and KFDR units are each composed of only two persons: a Kryetar (president) and a Sekretari (secretary), either male or female. The KFDR's consist of committees (number of members unknown to me).

Function of the Fronti-Demokratik R.P.SH

11. "The Fronti-Demokratik organization throughout Albania has one prime mission: to act as spokesman for the Albanian Labor Party, which is the CP of the country. Through normal propaganda and agitation methods it prepares future 'reliable' citizens. It follows directives issued by the Labor Party through the Organizata Baze i Partis. The Fronti Demokratik works hand in hand with the Organizata Baze.

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[redacted] the vital importance of the Fronti-Demokratik to the Albanian citizen may be put simply: Possession of a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik (Membership Card for the Democratic Front) means that the Albanian belongs to his country. Non-possession of a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik means that he is a dead man in the eyes of his country; he has no privileges; further, he is considered an 'enemy of the people', a reactionary..

13. "Enlistment in the Fronti-Demokratik is not, according to its statute, obligatory. Since, however, it determines whether a person can or cannot work, whether a person can or cannot vote, it may safely be assumed that it is more than obligatory. For instance, the Kryetar or Referenti Personelit of the Labor (Punes) Office asks a job applicant to produce his Fronti-Demokratik Membership Card. If the applicant has this card he is not questioned. If he does not have such a card, the official starts asking why the applicant is not a member of the Fronti-Demokratik. (The applicant must reply that he either wasn't given a card or that he was evicted for such-and-such reason). Work is rarely given to persons who are not members of the Fronti-Demokratik. In particular cases, when manpower is sorely needed for heavy labor jobs (hamal - handyman or mecagure - stone breaker), persons not within the Fronti-Demokratik may obtain such jobs temporarily. This policy of assigning heavy work is used as a weapon against reactionaries, persons whom the regime has declared of unsound social origin (sons of kulaks, sons of businessmen, etc.).

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Issue of the Triska I Fronti-Demokratik

14. "The Triska I Fronti-Demokratik is issued to males and females over 18 years of age. It is obtained as follows:

Case (a)

15. "Applicant X is 19 and has lived in the city of Tirana since birth. (Note: Only in the city of Tirana, which has rajone, does the Fronti-Demokratik have rajone offices (KFDR's). These are situated in the headquarters of the Kom. Ekq. K.P. of the rajones. This holds true only for Tirana, since the other regional capitals have only KFDR units. The Kryetar and Sekretari of the KFDR do not have offices for their activities. Applicant X approaches either the Kryetar or Sekretari (at their homes) of the KFDR of the Lagja (city sub-sector) to which he belongs. He states that he wants to join the Fronti-Demokratik organization and that he wants a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik. His personal data are taken down: name and surname, date and place of birth, profession, address. No written application is required. He is told to return in three or four days.
16. "The Kryetar and Sekretar of the KFDR investigate the applicant. They then go to the KFDR to which they are responsible. There they discuss the applicant with the Kryetar and Sekretar of the Fronti-Demokratik for the Rajone and obtain his Triska I Fronti-Demokratik. When Applicant X returns to his KFDR he pays 10 lek to obtain his Triska I Fronti-Demokratik. Every month he must pay the Kryetar an additional two lek as membership fee. The Kryetar of the KFDR possesses a special registry, in which he has entered all the personal data on Applicant X and also the number of his Triska I Fronti-Demokratik. Applicant X is now a member of the Fronti-Demokratik.
17. "Since the Fronti-Demokratik is but the spokesman of the Albanian Labor Party and since both the Kryetar and the Sekretar of the KFDR are members of the Party and since the Fronti-Demokratik receives orders from the Organizata Baze I Partis, the Kryetar or Sekretar of the KFDR know in advance to whom they can or cannot issue a Triska for the Fronti-Demokratik. It may be safely affirmed that the KFDR's and KFDR's etc have lists compiled by the Seksioni Kuadrit (Personnel Section) of the Albanian Labor Party of persons in their respective areas who are considered reactionnaires (sons of kulaks, of businessmen etc). Thus, the Kryetar of a KFDR can refuse Applicant X in advance, if his name appears on the list. Applicant X can appeal to the Kryetar of the superior KFDR, but there he will receive the same reply. He can also file a written application, through the Rajone, to the KFDR-Tirane. The same negative reply will be given, verbally by the Kryetar of the KFDR.
18. "However, the Kryetars of the KFDR's possess a certain number of blank Fronti-membership cards for the Fronti-Demokratik, which they have obtained from the Kryetar of the superior KFDR. A Kryetar of a KFDR can issue a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik to an applicant without consulting the Kryetar of the KFDR, but he must by regulation discuss the case with his own Sekretar. However, the Kryetar of a KFDR - and this holds true for the KFDR's of any regional capital but not for those of a Lokalitet or village where people all know each other - can personally issue a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik to Applicant X, at his own risk and at the risk of the applicant. It is a dangerous procedure for both, although less dangerous when it involves an applicant who was not born in the city of Tirana or in another regional capital. The point is that the Triska of the Fronti entitles a person to obtain a job. Therefore, when Applicant X goes to a Punes (Labor) Office to apply for a job his personal data and file are forwarded to the Seksioni Kuadrit (Personnel Section) of the Labor Party, which investigates the applicant's past. Eventually the swindle comes to light, because if the applicant gets by the Seksioni Kuadrit, he will be caught within six months because of his Biografia at the Seksioni Kuadrit of the institution, plant or enterprise where he is working. Every person who holds a job must prepare a personal Biografia. These biografia all make their way back to the Seksioni Kuadrit of the Party, which checks the persons's statements on his past activities.

Case (b)

19. "Applicant Y, also 19, has come to the city of Tirana from, let us say, the village of Ietaj in the Kukes region. If he has come for a definite stay in Tirana and is already

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in possession of a Triska of the Fronti-Demokratik, he must register with the KFDL Kryetar of the city sub-sector of Tirana in which he is staying. He shows the Triska to the Kryetar and pays him the monthly membership fees.

20. "If Applicant Y is not a member of the Fronti-Demokratik, he makes the same application procedure as described in Case (a) /Paragraphs 15-18/. His case is, however, more thoroughly checked. Information on his past activities is requested by the KFDL through the KFDL up to the KFDQ-Tirana, which transmits the request to the KFDQ-Kukes, which routes it through the KFD-LOK Krume down to the Kryetar of the KFDK-Letaj. This is a normal procedure. The Kryetar of a KFDL could, if he knew applicant Y, issue him a Triska personally. But he would bear all responsibility for this action.

Case (c)

21. "The issue of a Triska of the Fronti-Demokratik throughout towns, localities and villages follows the same procedures as above, in cases (a) and (b).
22. "The Kryetar of a village KFDK is an important person. There are no branches of the Sigurimi Shtetit (S.SH. - Security Police) in the villages. If, for example, a Letaj family should escape into Yugoslavia, leaving a son performing military service, who happened to be in Letaj on leave at the time but did not escape, that son, according to security regulations, is evicted from the Army and sent to a concentration camp. This sentence can be avoided if the Kryetar of the KFDK signs a garanci to the effect that he is certain that the son will make no attempt to escape. (If the son was serving with his unit at the time of the escape, he is not sent to a concentration camp but is watched as a non-reliable element.

Description of the Triska I Frontit-Demokratik

23. "The Triska I Fronti-Demokratik is a little white cardboard booklet with light blue 'reflexes' /sic/ and with thin ('transparent') white inside pages. It bears a registration number. It specified:

Emni (name)
Mbiemni (surname)
Dat-lin (date of birth)
Rajone (region)
Lagje (city or town sub-sector)
Shenim (remarks)

24. "In Tirana, it bears the signature of the Kryetar of the KFDL concerned and the stamp of the KFDL. In the capital towns of regions it bears the signature of the Kryetar of the KFDL concerned and the stamp of the KFDQ of the region. In villages and localities it bears the signature of the Kryetar of the local Fronti-Demokratik unit concerned (the KFD-LOK- or KFDK) and the stamp of the regional KFDQ. Thus, for a person in Letaj, the signature on the Triska I Frontit-Demokratik would be that of the Kryetar of the KFDK of Letaj village, but the stamp would be that of the KFDQ-Kukes.

25. "Every month of the year, upon receipt of the two-lek membership fee, the Kryetar to whom the bearer is immediately responsible, signs his name in the space on the card that is indicated for that month.

26. "Loss of a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik does not involve punishment or penalty. The loss must be reported to the Kryetar or Sekretar with whom the bearer is registered. A new card is issued without difficulty upon payment of 10 Leks. Obviously, this new Triska has another registration number. The Kryetar forwards the information to his superior Frontit-Demokratik unit.

Privileges of a Member of the Frontit-Demokratik

27. "Possession of a Triska of the Frontit-Demokratik entitles the bearer to the following two privileges: The right to obtain work through a Punes (Labor) Office, and the right to cast a vote. It also enables the bearer to be drafted into the regular Army. Persons who are not in possession of a Triska I Fronti-Demokratik are considered reactionary; when drafted they are sent to Bataljoni Speciali Punes (Special Labor Battalions).

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28. "The Triska of the Fronti-Demokratik is not a title to any other rights. It is not an identification card. It does not entitle the bearer to free or reduced price tickets on trains or buses or in theatres or cinemas. It could be accepted as an indirect identification card to be handed to the S.SH. when obtaining a bus ticket.

Duties of a Member of the Fronti-Demokratik

"The member of the Fronti-Demokratik must;

- (a) Attend the monthly meetings with the Kryetar and Sekretar of the Fronti-Demokratik organization upon which he directly depends.
- (b) Perform the so-called Pun-Vullnetare (voluntary work) assigned to him by the Kryetar to whom he reports, e g sweep the streets of a Kshilli lagja (city sub-sector) one Sunday; dig a street gutter; repair part of a street.
- (c) Vote for the Fronti-Demokratik according to directives issued by the Labor Party.
- (d) Pay regularly the two-lek monthly membership fee.
- (e) Pay the subscriptions ordered by the Kryetar, e g Peace petition (minimum cash payment 10 lek per member; subscription for Korea - not for Korean children, simply for Korea.

Electoral Procedures

29. "The KFDK's (of all villages), the KFD-LOK's (of all localities), the KFDL (of all regional capitals and in the city of Tirana) and the three KFDR's of the city of Tirana all consist of one Kryetar and one Sekretar, both members of the Albanian Labor Party.
30. "All KFDQ's consist of a Kryetar and Sekretar and a number of Antars (members). The Kryetars of certain KFDQ's are also regional deputies (Deputeti i Rretheve) in the Kuvendi Popullor (People's Assembly). This is not normal, however, for regional deputies. The committee of the KFDQ-Kukes included in 1952 two regional deputies: Major General Rahman Parillaku, a member of the Albanian Armed Forces Staff, and Osman Poga, who was also Kryetar of the Komiteti Ekz. K.P. Lokalitetit-Krume. At Korce the Kryetar of the KFDQ-Korce was Rita Marko, who was also deputy for the entire Korce region in the Kuvendi Popullor.
31. "While the members of the various regional KFDQ's throughout Albania are appointed by the Praezidium Kuvendit Popullor, the other officials (Kryetars and Sekretars of the Fronti-Demokratik are elected. The elections are combined with the general elections. The last, to my knowledge, took place 25 May 52, five days before the general elections for the deputeti of the Kuvendit Popullor. The elections are for a three-year term. If a Kryetar or Sekretar dies in office or is arrested, a special election takes place.
32. "The vote is registered by raising hands. The entire staff of the Party Organizata Baze for the administrative unit concerned - Lagja, village, locality etc. - gathers all the members of the Fronti-Demokratik of that unit. After the usual propaganda speech emphasizing freedom of vote, the Sekretar of the Organizata Baze proposes four persons as candidates for Kryetar and for Sekretar - all members of the Labor Party. These are the only candidates. The persons winning the most votes (by hand) are confirmed respectively Kryetar (most votes) and Sekretary (next number) of the Fronti-Demokratik unit. Very seldom, following a Party decision, the name of a non-Party person may appear among the four candidates. But the Party must consider him a 'Simpatizanta i Partis' - person sympathetic to the Party.
33. "After the election of the Kryetars and Sekretars of the Fronti-Demokratik organizations, the members of the Fronti-Demokratik (since only they possess the voting privilege) elect deputies to the Kuvendit Popullor. In each region the Fronti-Demokratik has from one to four candidates, according to CP orders. Each village, locality, and regional capital with its component Kshilli Lagjes prepares 10 days before election day a

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nominal roll (including name, surname, date and place of birth and full address including street number) of all members of the Fronti-Demokratik in the administrative unit. This roll is typewritten on a normal sheet of paper and posted on the wall in front of the Kryetar's house. There is one electoral seat for each locality and village and one for each Kshilli Lagja in the regional capitals (11 in Tirana). Five Party members or 'sympathizers' comprise the Commission which supervises the casting of votes for each electoral seat. They are appointed by the Organizata Baze. For each electoral seat there are two cardboard boxes on a table in the voting place. Each box has a hole large enough for the voter to insert his hand with the ballot. The room is usually requisitioned by the Fronti-Demokrat from one of its members. A voter enters the voting room. One of the members of the electoral commission is posted at the door. The voter advances to a table behind which sit three members of the commission. The first member asks the voter's name and surname. Sometimes his Leter-Njoftimit (Identity Card) is requested for identification. The voter's name is checked. The second member of the commission hands him a small rubber ball, about one cm in diameter. The third one explains the voting procedure. One of the boxes represents the candidate of the Fronti-Demokratik. His picture is pasted on it. His qualifications are emphasized at length. The other box, which bears no picture, is that of the reaction, 'our enemy' - 'kurtia reaksionit'. The fifth member of the electoral commission stands near the boxes and watches the ballot casting. The person must put his right hand, with closed fist, first into the Fronti-Demokratik box and then into the other one. The ball drops into a small cloth sack, so it makes no sound. These devices are supposed to effect a secret ballot. I know, however, that in the electoral seat for K.L. Vojo Kushi, Rajone 3, in Tirana, the commission in 1952 omitted the cloth sack from the reactionary box. Any ball dropped in that box was heard. Nobody was arrested, but all names were immediately put into a black book. The results were probably eviction from the Fronti-Demokratik and loss of adherent privileges.

35. "The persons elected through this ballot system become Deputeti of the Kuvendit Popullor. They serve a three-year term. They in turn appoint all members of the KFDQ's of Tirana and of the other regional capitals.
36. "Members of the Albanian armed forces vote in similar fashion. They vote in the barracks to which they belong. Thus, in Durres there is an electoral seat in each military unit, e.g. the Shkolla Artilerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare. The electoral commission consists of five members: two captains (first class), one captain (second class) and two togers (lieutenants) - all officers of the same division. At the Durres Artillery School in 1952 the military personnel of the School voted for the candidates for the region of Durres, and not for those representing the city. Thus, members of a military unit vote for the candidate representing the regional area in which that unit is stationed.
37. "The following deputies were among those elected to the Kuvendit Popullor in May 1952:

Tirana - Enver Hoxha, Spiro Molsiu, Beqir Balluku, Myslym Peza
 Elbasan - Aleksander Khovani, Aleks Buda
 Korce - Rita Marko, Koco Tashko, Spiro Pano
 Pogradec - Piro Gusho
 Gjinokaster - Jorgjia Premti, Bedri Spahiu, Omer Dishani
 Vlore - Hyent Kapo, Gogo Nushi
 Durres - [sic - Durres] - Teti Kolomeci
 Shkoder - Gjovalin Luka, Tuk Jakova, Sadik Bekteshi
 Kukes - Rahman Parllaku, Osman Poga
 Puka - Mark Ndoja, Gjin Marku
 Peshkopi - Nexhmi je Hoxha, Sami Baholli
 Berat - Spiro Koleka
 Permet - Petrit Dume
 Fier - Mehmet Shehu
 Lushnje - Liri Belishova
 Kruja - Haxhi Seseri
 Sarande - Mihal Prifti
 Kavaje - Fadil Pacrami

The seven members of the Presidium Kuvendit Popullor were:

Kryetar - Dr Ymer Nishani	Antar - Myslym Peza	Antar - Enver Hoxha
Sekretar - Sami Baholli	" - Gjovalin Luka	" - Koco Tashko
	- end -	Bedri Spahiu"

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